



# HF Happenings 806

Volume 16, Issue 16, the week of 30 July 2018

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from [www.sarl.org.za/hf\\_happenings.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp)

Southern African Fauna and Flora <https://zsfaunaandflora.wordpress.com/>



HOSTED BY **SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE**

## **SARL HF Phone contest on 5 August**

The aim of the SARL HF Phone contest is for participants to contact as many amateurs in Southern Africa as possible on the 20, 40 and 80 metre amateur bands. The SARL HF Phone Contest will be run from 14:00 to 17:00 UTC on Sunday 5 August 2018 with activity between 14 125 to 14 300 kHz; 7 063 to 7 100 and 7 130 to 7 200 kHz and 3 603 to 3 650 and 3 700 to 3 800 kHz. The exchange is a RS report and a consecutive serial number starting at 001.

The Silent Keys Memorial SSB Trophy is awarded to the amateur who achieves the highest score; the Joseph White Trophy is awarded to the amateur who achieves the highest score on any one band and the AKYAB Trophy is awarded to the amateur who achieves the highest score in his or her first year of phone (this amateur must have received his or her licence between 1 September 2017 to August 2018). Get the detailed rules in the 2018 SARL Blue Book.

## **Results of the ZS2 Sprint**

The ZS2 Sprint was held on Sunday 22 July and 16 log sheets were received.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Max Rossi, ZS5MAX - 73 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Deon Fraser, ZS5DCF - 67 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan Botha, ZS4JAN - 60 points
- 4<sup>th</sup> Woody Collet, ZS3WL - 59 points
- 5<sup>th</sup> Dylan Macdonald, ZS2MAC - 57 points
- 6<sup>th</sup> PEARS, ZS2PE - 51 points
- 7<sup>th</sup> David Koen, ZS1DK - 49 points
- 8<sup>th</sup> Schalk van Vuuren, ZS1LL - 38 points
- 9<sup>th</sup> Pieter Jacobs, V51PJ - 36 points
- 10<sup>th</sup> Garth Moore, ZS2AAR - 32 points
- 11<sup>th</sup> Romeo Nardini, ZS6ARQ - 31 points
- 12<sup>th</sup> Sean Pritchard, ZS5X - 30 points

## **August**

- 2 to 5 – Ramsgate Book and Art Festival
- 3 to 5 – West Coast Craft Exhibition, Velddrif; Slow Food and Wine Festival, Robertson
- 4 Aug to 2 Sept – Clanwilliam Wild Flower Festival
- 5 – [SARL HF Phone Contest](#)
- 8 to 15 – [YOTA 2018 Summer Camp in South Africa](#)
- 9 – National Women's Day; [SARL YL Sprint](#)
- 12 – International Youth Day
- 13 – [closing date for HF Phone contest logs](#)
- 16 – [closing date YL Sprint logs](#)
- 18 and 19 – Lowveld Book Festival, White River; The Chocolate Festival, Stellenbosch; [International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend](#)
- 19 – [SARL HF Digital Contest](#); World Humanitarian Day
- 22 – Eid-al-Adha
- 23 – [closing date for articles for the September Radio ZS](#)
- 24 to 25 – Hantam Vleisfees, Calvinia
- 24 to 26 – Magalies Rocks the Cradle Festival, Magaliesburg
- 25 – [Cape Town ARC Meeting; Pretoria ARC AGM and Flea Market](#)
- 26 – [SARL HF CW Contest](#)
- 27 – [closing date for HF Digital logs](#)

## **September**

- 1 – West Rand ARC Flea Market
- 1 and 2 – Region 1 SSB Field Day and RSGB SSB Field Day
- 3 – closing date for HF CW logs

13<sup>th</sup> Dirk Els and ZS6AKU 19 points  
14<sup>th</sup> Karin Andrew, ZS6MMA - 19 points  
15<sup>th</sup> Garth Wheeler, ZS6GMW - 18 points  
16<sup>th</sup> Antony Rouquette, ZS6ANT - 12 points

Thank you all for participating and the certificates will be e-mailed in due course.

### Significant Changes in Store for FT8 and MSK144 with WSJT-X Version 2.0

WSJT-X co-developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, has announced that major changes are coming to the FT8 and MSK144 digital protocols when WSJT-X version 2.0 arrives in a few months <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjsx.html>. Taylor said version 2.0 should be ready by January 2019.



"Much of the necessary programming is finished," Taylor said in a post to the Packrats reflector. "Many of the new features have been tested on the air and we find them to work well."

Taylor was quick to point out that the new capabilities are not yet publicly available, not even in beta form. He said that he, Steve Franke, K9AN and Bill Somerville, G4WJS, have been developing "enhanced versions of the MSK144 and FT8 protocols that extend the message payload to 77 bits."

"Don't rush to download something," he cautioned. "There is more testing and code optimization to do." He said current plans call for a beta-testing period "probably starting

in mid-to-late September," with a full release "possible a couple of months later."

Taylor ticked off a few possibilities WSJT-X version 2.0 will bring to the table:

- ARRL Field Day operation with standard Field Day exchanges.
- ARRL RTTY Roundup operation with standard contest exchanges.
- North American VHF contest operation with full support of grid exchanges and rover (/R) call signs.
- European VHF contest operation with the exchange of six-digit grids, QSO serial numbers and portable (/P) call signs.
- Better and more user-friendly support for compound and nonstandard call signs.
- A special "telemetry" message format for exchanging arbitrary information up to 71 bits.
- Support for the existing "FT8 DXpedition Mode," with a more powerful DXpedition Mode possible too.

"All of these features work seamlessly and automatically," Taylor said. "No 'contest mode' checkboxes are needed. In most situations, decoding sensitivity will be slightly better than at present for FT8; for MSK144 it will sometimes be about 0,5 dB worse. Occupied bandwidths will be the same as they are now and false-decode rates will be significantly lower."

Taylor said WSJT-X version 2.0 will be available in time for users to digest the new documentation and to practice using the software before using it on the air, but he offered one important caveat. "The new protocols cannot be backward compatible with the existing ones," he said in his post. "We will probably provide some temporary 'bilingual' capability for FT8, but not for MSK144. It will be essential for users to upgrade to version 2.0 to use the new features and communicate with others who have made the upgrade."

Taylor promised "plenty of advance notice" about the transition period and a must-upgrade-by date.

### More ARRL Contest Award Certificates Now Available for Download

The ARRL Contest Branch has announced that more contest award certificates are now available for download from the ARRL website in PDF and JPEG formats <http://contests.arrrl.org/certificates.php>. Just enter the call sign used. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, said downloadable certificates now are available for these additional events: the 2017 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest, the 2017 November Sweepstakes, the 2017 ARRL 10 Meter Contest, the 2017 160 Meter Contest, the 2018 RTTY Roundup and the 2018 January VHF Contest. Jahnke said 2018 ARRL International DX Contest certificates would become available in the very near future.



Already available are downloadable certificates for the 2017 IARU HF Championship, the 2017 ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest and the 2017 ARRL September VHF Contest. Jahnke said the new online certificates will offer enhanced content over what has been previously available on ARRL certificates. New recognitions have been added for Top 10 participants in a broader number of geographical (country, Division, Section) or categorical entries.

New event certificates will be announced as they are released. For those who never received a certificate or need to replace one, Jahnke said certificates for contests going back a decade or so are available for everything but the old UHF Contest and EME Contest.

## African DX

*Contacts with stations on the African continent count towards the SARL's All Africa Award ([www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp))*

Mali, TZ. Youma, TZ5YL is usually active on 17 metres using slow CW typically between 14:00 and 17:00 UTC.

Morocco, CN. Look for 5E5A (EA5EL, EA7FTR, EA1ACP and EB7DX) for the National Celebrations in Morocco. active from 31 August until 3 September. Activity on SSB, CW and FT8. QSL via EA7FTR.



Kingdom of eSwatini (Swaziland), 3DA0. Pista HA5AO will arrive eSwatini (Swaziland) on 14 September, late afternoon. He plans to operate during his free time between 16 – 28 September from the Mountain Inn Resort at Mbabane. He received the 3DA0AO license and a LotW certificate. Pista will operate 80–10 meters using a Hustler 6 BTV vertical antenna with 17 and 12 meter add-on elements, CW, RTTY and FT8. He is bringing an Elecraft K3 with the KPA 500 amplifier. Logsearch will be available on HA5AO.com. His plans include testing a new feature of the PDXG QSL Management Platform, the uploading of QSOs in real time.

Malawi, 7Q. Alex, IW5ELA will be active as 7Q7ELA from 17 to 26 September. He will operate mainly CW on the HF bands. Activity from these locations – 17 to 20 September from Game Haven Lodge, 20 to 23 September from Mvu Camp and 23 to 26 September from Makokola Retreat. QSL via home call.

Rwanda, 9X. The Italian DXpedition Team is planning to be active from Rwanda between 26 September and 10 October as 9X0T and for FT8 DXpedition mode, the call 9X0Y. Operation from 160 to 10 metres using CW and SSB with 3 stations. RTTY will be used only on 20 metres. QSL via I2YSB. For real-time log search and OQRS see [www.i2ysb.com/idt/](http://www.i2ysb.com/idt/)

Burkina Faso, XT. A Slovenian Team with S54W, S57L, S58Y, S59ZZ and S50A will be operating as XT2SZZ from Bobo Dioulasso between 22 and 30 October. QSL via S59ZZ.

## African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Cape Verde, D4. Christian, MOUPL is active as D44EK until 7 August with activity on HF using SSB. QSL via home call.

South Africa, ZS9. Look for ZS9V from Robben Island (AF-064 and ZSFF-0322) from the evening of 17 August until Monday 20 August. This is the weekend of ILLW. Same as last year, SSB on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres and this year they will have a CW station also. More on <http://zs9v.org.za/>

Mauritius, 3B8. Hans, PA3HGT will once again be operating as 3B8/ PA3HGT from 4 to 24 September. Operation in 'holiday-style' on 40, 20 and 10 metres using mostly SSB with some CW and digital. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

## CQ World Wide Contest rules have been updated

CQ has announced that, effective with the 2018 contest season, some modifications to the CQ World Wide Contest rules have been developed and approved by the contest committee <http://cqww.com/blog/2018-cq-ww-rules-updated/> <https://cqww.com/rules.htm>.



The "busted call/NIL" penalty is reduced from 3x to 2x. Email addresses for log submissions have been removed, and the committee now "strongly prefers" using web uploads to submit logs <http://cqww.com/log-check/>. Paper logs will still be accepted. The 10x penalty for "rubber clocking" with MS/M2 entries has been eliminated, although the committee "will continue to vigorously pursue time abuses." Also, the observer program has been eliminated. "Given the absence of a reasonable pool of volunteers and supporting funding, the program has proven to be impractical," CQ said.

In addition, the top entry in the "Rookie" category will be awarded on a one-time-only basis. Previous Rookie winners are ineligible for plaques in this category. Submit questions via the CQ WW "Contact Form" page <https://cqww.com/contact/>.

## Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 30 July to 6 August 2018

Phone Fray  
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 1 August  
Geographic Focus: North America  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: SSB  
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m  
Classes: Single Op  
Max power: 100 watts  
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station  
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 3 August 2018  
E-mail logs to: (none)  
Post log summary at: [www.3830scores.com](http://www.3830scores.com)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: [www.perluma.com/Phone\\_Fray\\_Con-test\\_Rules.pdf](http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Con-test_Rules.pdf)

CWops Mini-CWT Test  
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 1 August and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 2 August  
Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
Participation: Worldwide  
Awards: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high  
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 4 August 2018  
Post log summary at: [www.3830scores.com](http://www.3830scores.com)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: [www.cwops.org/cwt.html](http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html)

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest  
17:00 - 18:00 UTC (CW) and 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (SSB) and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (FM) and 20:00 - 21:00 (Dig) 2 August (Dig)  
Geographic Focus: Nordic Europe  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW, SSB, FM, Digital  
Bands: 10 m Only  
Classes: (none)  
Exchange: RS(T) and 6-character grid square  
QSO Points: (see rules)  
Multipliers: (none)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  
Submit logs by: 16 August 2018  
Upload log at: [http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit\\_log.php?lang=en](http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: [www.nrau.net/activity-contests/low-30mhz.html](http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests/low-30mhz.html)

SKCC Sprint Europe  
19:00 - 21:00 UTC 2 August  
Geographic Focus: Europe  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
Classes: (none)  
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or power  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: (see rules)  
Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once  
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points  
Submit logs by: 9 August 2018  
E-mail log summary to: (none)



Post log summary at: [www.skccgroup.com/operating\\_activities/skse/submit-display.php?submit\\_id=165](http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/skse/submit-display.php?submit_id=165)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: [www.skccgroup.com/operating\\_activities/skse/](http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/skse/)

#### QRP Fox Hunt

01:00 - 02:30 UTC 3 August

Geographic Focus: United States

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 4 August 2018

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: [www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer\\_rules.htm](http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm)

#### NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 3 August

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 5 August 2018

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: [www.3830scores.com/](http://www.3830scores.com/)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: [www.ncccsprInternational.com/rttyns.html](http://www.ncccsprInternational.com/rttyns.html)

#### NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 3 August

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 5 August 2018

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: [www.3830scores.com/](http://www.3830scores.com/)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: [www.ncccsprInternational.com/rules.html](http://www.ncccsprInternational.com/rules.html)

#### 10-10 International Summer SSB Contest

00:01 UTC 4 August to 23:59 UTC 5 August

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: SSB

Bands: 10 m Only

Classes: Individual; Club; QRP

Max power: non-QRP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: 10-10 Member: Name, 10-10 number and state, province or country; Non-Member: Name, 0 and state, province or country

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with a non-member; 2 points per QSO with a 10-10 member

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 13 August 2018

E-mail logs to: [tencontest@ten-ten.org](mailto:tencontest@ten-ten.org)

Upload log at: <http://hamclubs.info/scorer/>

Mail logs to: Dan Morris, KZ3T, 3162 Covington Way, Lenoir, NC 28645, USA

Find rules at: [www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules](http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules)

#### European HF Championship

12:00 - 23:59 UTC 4 August

Geographic Focus: Europe

Participation: Europe

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB or mixed - high or low; SWL

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts

Exchange: RS(T) and 2-digit year first licensed

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each 2-digit year licensed once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 6 August 2018

Upload log at: [http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhf/euhf\\_log\\_submission.htm](http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhf/euhf_log_submission.htm)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhf/euhfcrules.htm>

#### North American CW QSO Party

18:00 UTC 4 August to 05:59 UTC 5 August

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Awards: North America

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP or low; Multi-Two - low

Max operating hours: Single Op: 10 hours; Multi-Two: 12 hours  
Max power: LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
Exchange: NA: Name and state, DC, province or country; non-NA: Name  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station  
Multipliers: Each US state and DC (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 05:59 UTC 10 August 2018  
E-mail logs to: (none)  
Upload log at: [www.ncjweb.com/nagplogssubmit/](http://www.ncjweb.com/nagplogssubmit/)  
Mail logs to: Chris Hurlbut, KL9A, 1733 E. Broad Ave., Spokane, WA 99207, USA

Find rules at: [www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf](http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf)

SARL HF Phone Contest  
14:00 - 17:00 UTC 5 August  
Geographic Focus: Southern Africa  
Participation: Southern Africa  
Mode: SSB  
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m  
Classes: Single Op All Band; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op All Band; Multi-Op Single Band  
Exchange: RS and serial no  
Score Calculation: (see rules)  
Submit logs by: 13 August 2018  
E-mail logs to: [zs4bfn@mweb.co.za](mailto:zs4bfn@mweb.co.za)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: [www.sarl.org.za/Web3/Members/DocDown-load.aspx?X=201712180812348XdiUz5yFy.PDF](http://www.sarl.org.za/Web3/Members/DocDown-load.aspx?X=201712180812348XdiUz5yFy.PDF)

## Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 7 August  
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 8 August  
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 8 August and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 9 August  
QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 10 August  
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 10 August  
NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 10 August  
WAE DX CW Contest, 00:00 UTC 11 August to 23:59 UTC 12 August  
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 12:00 UTC 11 August to 24:00 UTC 12 August  
Maryland-DC QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 11 August to 04:00 UTC 12 August  
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 13 August

*Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter*

